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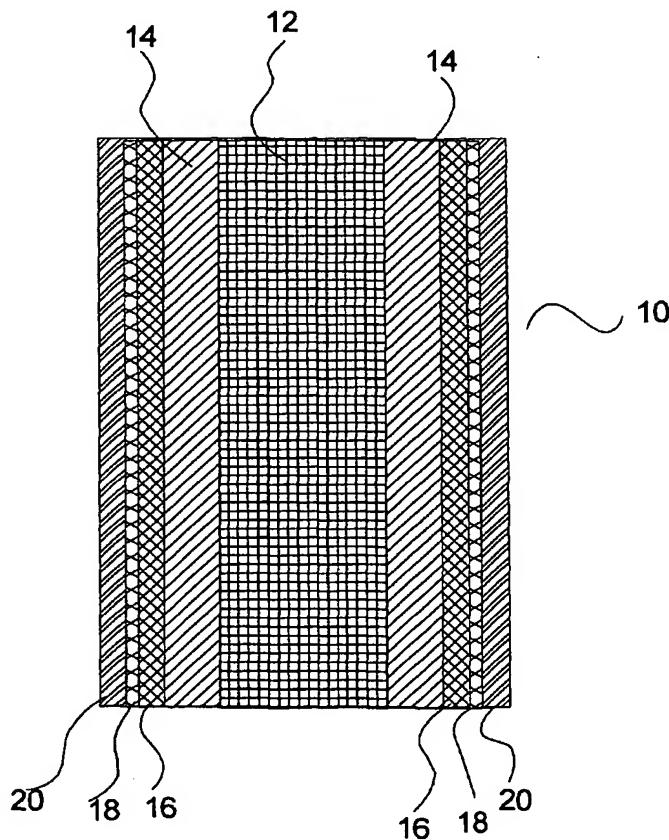
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(54) Title: METAL-SUPPORTED TUBULAR FUEL CELL



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a method of manufacturing a metal-supported tubular micro-solid oxide fuel cell, and a fuel cell made from such method. The method comprises the steps of coating a wooden substrate member with a conductive substrate layer, coating the substrate layer with an inner electrode layer, coating the inner electrode layer with an electrolyte layer, drying and sintering the coated substrate member such that the substrate member combusts, coating the electrolyte layer with an outer electrode layer, and then drying and sintering the layers. The invention further relates to a method of manufacturing a tubular solid oxide fuel cell assembly comprising: a) coating a tubular substantially metallic support layer with a ceramic or cermet inner electrode layer, b) coating the inner electrode layer with a ceramic electrolyte layer; c) coating the electrolyte layer with a ceramic or cermet outer electrode layer, then d) sintering the layers to produce a hollow tubular metal-supported fuel cell; the electrode and electrolyte layers having a collective wall thickness of 80 μm or less, the support layer having sufficient mechanical strength to support the electrode and electrolyte layers and sufficient porosity to flow a reactant therethrough.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/CA 03/01118

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01M8/02 H01M8/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/09968 A (UNIV CALIFORNIA ;VISCO STEVEN J (US); DEJONGHE LUTGARD C (US); JAC) 8 February 2001 (2001-02-08) page 11, lines 1-34; page 14, lines 15-22; page 19, lines 14-17; Figure 5D ---	1,13,17
Y	US 6 080 501 A (DAVIS JAMES L ET AL) 27 June 2000 (2000-06-27) column 2, line 61 -column 2, line 67 column 3, line 10 -column 3, line 62 ---	1,13,17
Y	WO 01/86030 A (ALBERTA RES COUNCIL INC ;SARKAR PARTHO (CA)) 15 November 2001 (2001-11-15) page 16, line 14 - line 37 claim 17 ---	1,13,17
X	---	24
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
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- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *8* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

20 April 2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 03/069705 A (ALBERTA RES COUNCIL INC ;SARKAR PARTHO (CA); RHO HONGSANG (CA)) 21 August 2003 (2003-08-21) page 16, line 14 -page 17, line 25; claims 12,13 -----	24-36
E	WO 03/062503 A (ALBERTA RES COUNCIL INC ;SARKAR PARTHO (CA); RHO HONGSANG (CA)) 31 July 2003 (2003-07-31) page 19, line 30 -page 20, line 29; claims 20,29,32 -----	24-36

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA 03/01118

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-23

Tubular solid oxide fuel cell assembly comprising:

- a tubular metallic porous support having sufficient porosity and strength to allow a reactant flow therethrough
- a tubular layer assembly having a thickness of 80 microns or less and being supported thereon, this layer comprising concentrically
 - 1) a ceramic or cermet inner electrode layer
 - ii) a ceramic middle electrolyte layer
 - iii) a ceramic or cermet outer electrode layer

and method for producing such an assembly

2. Claims: 24-36

Method for producing a tubular oxide fuel cell comprising:

- coating a combustible non-conductive substrate with a conductive layer
- coating said conductive layer with an inner electrode layer by electrophoretic deposition
- coating the inner electrode layer with an electrolyte layer
- coating said electrolyte layer with an outer electrode layer
- drying and sintering the layers such that the combustible substrate combusts to leave a tubular fuel cell

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CA 03/01118

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